(c) Steps have been taken to expedite the filling up of the vacancies. The requirements of the Delhi Police for manpower and equipment remains under constant review and appropriate additions are made from time to time.

States of foreign nationals in Assam

1566. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central team of senior officers visited Sikkim in January last to discuss there, the question that in Assam whereas 1971 had been accepted as the cut-off year for determining the status of foreign nationals, how there could be different laws for the purpose, for the Nepalese in Assam and in other States and specially before 1975 in Sikkim when that State merged into India; and

(b) what are the decisions taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Central Team consisting of senior officers of this Ministry visited Gangtok in January, 1987 and discussed with the Chief Minister, Sikkim and other various aspects of the problem relating to 'Stateless' citizens in Sikkim. The matter is being processed in the light of the discussions held by the Team during their visit to Sikkim.

Increase in export earnings

1567. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the export earnings of the country during the year 1986-87 and if so, the percentage thereof and the total amount of export earnings;

(b) the percentage of increase in the import bill and the total amount spent on imports during the year 1986-87;

(c) the total deficit during the year 1986-87; and

(d) what further measures are being taken to reduce the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) According to the latest provisional data available for the first ten months of 1986-87, India's export during April-January, 1986-87 at Rs. 10075.45 crores were 17.0 per cent higher than a level of Rs. 8609.64 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year whereas imports at Rs. 15909.59 crores were 1.5 per cent higher as compared to Rs. 15671.41 crores. Consequently, there was a decline of Rs. 1227.63 crores in trade deficit from Rs. 7061.77 crores during April-January, 1985-86 to Rs. 5834.14 crores during April-January, 1986-87.

(d) A series of initiatives have been taken by the Government to promote exports. These are designed to generate surpluses for exports to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make the exports profitable. Simultaneously the Government has also initiated a series of steps to promote efficient import substitution, particularly in the sphere of bulk imports.

Loans to displaced persons and repatriates

1568. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government announced a decision to write-off all types of loans advanced to a large number of displaced persons and repatriates;